35 recommendations contained in its Interim Report and 90 recommendations contained in the Final Report have sought to overcome the weaknesses of the Department and improve the quality of service.

Laying down the financial objectives of the postal services of the country requires careful examination taking into account the need for providing a reasonably low cost service to the people and at the same time reducing the dependence of the postal service on the general revenues. This is a continuous exercise.

The recommendations on the organisational restructuring made by the Expert Committee in its final report made available in November, 1989 are being processed. Regarding the recommendations on improving the quality of service, several task forces have been appointed to operationalise these recommendations and a beginning has been made in several areas like review of mail and delivery offices, laying down norms for urban delivery Post Offices and such other cost effective measures to improve mail services.

Regarding upgrading of Technology, areas needing mechanisation and computerisation have been identified for phased implementation during the 8th Plan.

Relations with Nepal

*24. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve relations with Nepal during the visit by the Nepalese Foreign Minister in February, 1990; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the acquisition of a large quantity of Chinese weaponry by Nepal has become a stumbling block in improving these relations; if so, what is Nepal's stand on the supply of Chinese arms to Nepal in violation of Indo-Nepal Treaty; and

(c) what are the reasons for not taking early initiatives to improve relations with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Government have taken early initiatives to improve our relations with Nepal. The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Shri S. K. Upadhyay, visited India from January 3 to 5, 1990. The discussions during his visit contributed to greater understanding of each other's interests and concerns.

Subsequently, official level talks were held between India and Nepal on February 20-21, 1990. They covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest, trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, treatment of each others nationals, cooperation in the fields of industry, water resources etc. Progress was made towards a comprehensive appreciation of all outstanding problems.

It was agreed that during the next round of official talks, work would begin on documents to strengthen the close and age old Indo-Nepal relationship on an enduring basis.

Ship-repairing complex at Haldia

*25. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for opening a ship repairing complex at Haldia in West Bengal; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Government to provide adequate finance for the establishment